

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS LE MOPS
SUBJ: REMARKS OF PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY ON THE ARMY
AND THE MURABITUN

1. EMBOFF MET JUNE 21 WITH ABD-AL-RAHMAN SHAYKA, THE PRIVATE
SECRETARY OF THE PRIME MINISTER. SHAYKA, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED
FROM A MEETING AT BAABDA PALACE, SAID THE FOLLOWING.

2. THE ARMY.

A. THE GOVERNMENT HAD DEFINITELY POSTPONED THE DEPLOYMENT OF
ANY ARMY UNITS SOUTH UNTIL THE QUESTION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ARMY
OFFICERS WAS SETTLED. IF ANY ARMY UNITS WENT SOUTH BEFORE THEN,
THEY WOULD PROBABLY DISINTEGRATE. THE PRESIDENT HAD, HOWEVER,
DECIDED TO SEND DOWN ADDITIONAL GENDARMES IMMEDIATELY.

B. THE PRIME MINISTER CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT THE GOVERNMENT
ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT OF RIGHTIST AS WELL AS LEFTIST MILITARY
OFFICERS UNDER THE EMERGENCY POWERS EXPIRING JUNE 30. HE WOULD
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NOT COMPROMISE ON THIS AND WOULD INSIST THAT SA'AD HADDAD BE AMONG
THE RETIRED RIGHTIST OFFICERS.

C. THE LEBANESE FRONT HAD UNTIL RECENTLY ADAMANTLY OPPOSED THE
RETIREMENT OF PROMINENT CHRISTIAN OFFICERS SUCH AS HADDAD AND
SHIDIAC. CAMILLE CHAMOUN, HOWEVER, APPEARED TO HAVE CHANGED HIS
POSITION SOMEWHAT AND MIGHT NOW ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S FOR-
MULA OF RETIRING BOTH RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST OFFICERS.

3. THE IDU INCIDENT.

A. THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE ARREST OF ADNAN IDU, THE MUKHTAR OF BASTA, WOULD PROBABLY BLOW OVER QUICKLY. (COMMENT: JOHNNY ABDU'S G-2 DETAINED IDU FOR FIVE DAYS BECAUSE HE HAD STRUCK AN ARMY NCO AS THE RESULT OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. SHAYKA SAID THE G-2 SHOULD HAVE "GIVEN HIM A COUPLE OF SLAPS," BUT INSTEAD BEAT HIM SEVERELY. THE MURABITUN ON JUNE 19 HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DENOUNCING IDU'S ARREST. SHAYKA SAID THAT IDU WAS A "BUM." END COMMENT.)

B. THE MURABITUN WAS TRYING TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF IDU'S ARREST, BECAUSE IT REPRESENTED COORDINATION BETWEEN LEBANESE INTELLIGENCE AND THE LEBANESE ARMY, WHICH THREATENED THE MURABITUN'S CONTROL OF ITS TURF. SHAYKA SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE MUSLIM PEOPLE SUPPORTED THIS COORDINATION, BECAUSE THEY WERE SICK AND TIRED OF BEING VICTIMIZED BY THUGS AND GANGSTERS.

4. THE QULAYLAT INCIDENT.

A. WHEN IBRAHIM QULAYLAT HAD COME TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER ON JUNE 20, ONE OF HIS BODYGUARDS REFUSED TO SURRENDER HIS WEAPON AND GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH A LEBANESE GENDARME ON DUTY. AS A RESULT, THE BODYGUARD HAD COMPLAINED TO QULAYLAT, WHO HAD STALKED OFF IN A HUFF WITHOUT SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT AND FOUND THAT THE GENDARME WAS ONLY DOING HIS JOB.

B. SHAYKA SAID THIS INCIDENT WOULD ALSO SOON BLOW OVER. HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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IN TOUCH WITH THE MURABITUN AND HAD EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT NOT EVEN YASIR ARAFAT INSISTED ON GOING INTO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WITH ARMED GUARDS. A NEW MEETING WITH QULAYLAT AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ARRANGED SHORTLY AND A RECONCILIATION EFFECTED.

C. IN FACT, QULAYLAT WHEN HE ARRIVED WAS PROBABLY LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO CREATE AN INCIDENT. HE WAS ANNOYED THAT THE NEWSPAPERS HAD CENSORED THE MURABITUN PRESS CONFERENCE AND THAT VERY FEW PEOPLE HAD SHOWN UP TO ATTEND IT.

5. THE NORTH; RELATIONS WITH PLO.

A. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WAS NOT EXPECTING WIDESPREAD ARMED CONFLICT AS THE RESULT OF THE MURDERS OF TONY FRANGIEH AND HIS FAMILY, BECAUSE THE PHALANGE WERE SIMPLY TOO STRONG FOR THE FRANGIEH'S TO FIGHT HEAD ON. INSTEAD, THERE WOULD BE INDIVIDUAL REPRISALS WHICH COULD PROBABLY BE CONTAINED.

B. SHAYKA ALSO NOTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PLO AND GOL WERE GOOD AT THE MOMENT.

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